



**Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society**

***Opposing House Bill 5323 An Act Concerning Acquisition of Physician Practices by Insurers***

**Public Health Committee – February 23, 2015**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 250 orthopaedic surgeons of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to *House Bill 532 An Act Concerning Acquisition of Physician Practices by Insurers*.

The requirement of this bill for a physician practice to receive approval from two Government agencies, the Department of Public Health and the Attorney General's office prior to selling/transferring control of our practice is an intrusion of our rights as an independent business owner.

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society strongly opposes this unfair trade practice, which would mandate reporting the private sale of a business and/or assets to a buyer (an Insurer) with no reason stated as to why the approval is being mandated. In addition, the lack of specifics regarding the reporting process, criteria to be used in evaluating transaction and the turnaround time to process two approvals from two separate entities could have an adverse impact on negotiations and threaten the independent livelihood of a small business owner who wants to or needs to sell or transfer assets or operations and who has every right to manage this to his or her own determination based on private business negotiations. We are unaware of another business transaction where the seller is responsible for notifying and complying with these regulations as opposed to the buyer.

A great amount of time and debate existed last year around SB 35. It is unclear as to how this bill truly dovetails with SB 35. There is too much ambiguity within this bill as it now stands to even remotely consider that this bill is worth moving out of committee and having a formal vote by the legislature.

Please join us in opposing the unreasonable and anti-business trade practice proposal known as HB 5323. Thank you.

Submitted by:

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